

The list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-15 (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A method of treating endothelial injury ~~caused by mechanical damage, exposure to radiation, exposure to chemotherapeutic agents, inflammation, heart disease or cancer~~ in a subject, comprising administering an effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin to said subject in need of such treatment, wherein said endothelial injury is caused by mechanical damage, exposure to radiation, inflammation, heart disease or cancer.

17. (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said endothelial injury is caused by mechanical damage.

18. (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said endothelial injury is caused by exposure to radiation.

19. (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said endothelial injury is caused by inflammation.

20. (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said endothelial injury is caused by heart disease.

21. (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said endothelial injury is caused by cancer.

22. (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said erythropoietin is administered intravenously.

23-30 (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) ~~A method according to claim 16~~ A method of treating endothelial injury in a subject, comprising administering an effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin to said subject in need of such treatment,

wherein said effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin reduces or prevents the suppression of endothelial growth associated with endothelial injury caused by mechanical damage, exposure to radiation, exposure to ~~chemotherapeutic agents~~, cisplatin, inflammation, heart disease or cancer.

32. (currently amended) ~~A method according to claim 16~~, A method of treating endothelial injury in a subject, comprising administering an effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin to said subject in need of such treatment,

wherein said effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin increases the numbers of viable endothelial cells following endothelial injury caused by mechanical damage, exposure to radiation, exposure to ~~chemotherapeutic agents~~ cisplatin, inflammation, heart disease or cancer.

33. (previously presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein said erythropoietin is administered in an amount of from about 100 Units per kilogram to about 200 Units per kilogram.

34. (cancelled)

35. (currently amended) A method of reducing endothelial injury in a subject caused by administration of a ~~chemotherapeutic agent~~ cisplatin to the subject, comprising administering an effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin in conjunction with the administration of the ~~chemotherapeutic agent~~ cisplatin.

36. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~16~~ 40, wherein said effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin is administered simultaneously with said ~~chemotherapeutic agent~~ cisplatin.

37. (currently amended) A method according to claim 16 40, wherein said effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin is administered prior to said chemotherapeutic agent cisplatin.

38. (currently amended) A method according to claim 16 40, wherein said effective endothelial-protecting amount of erythropoietin is administered after said chemotherapeutic agent cisplatin.

39. (cancelled)

40. (New) A method according to claim 35, wherein said erythropoietin is administered intraveneously.